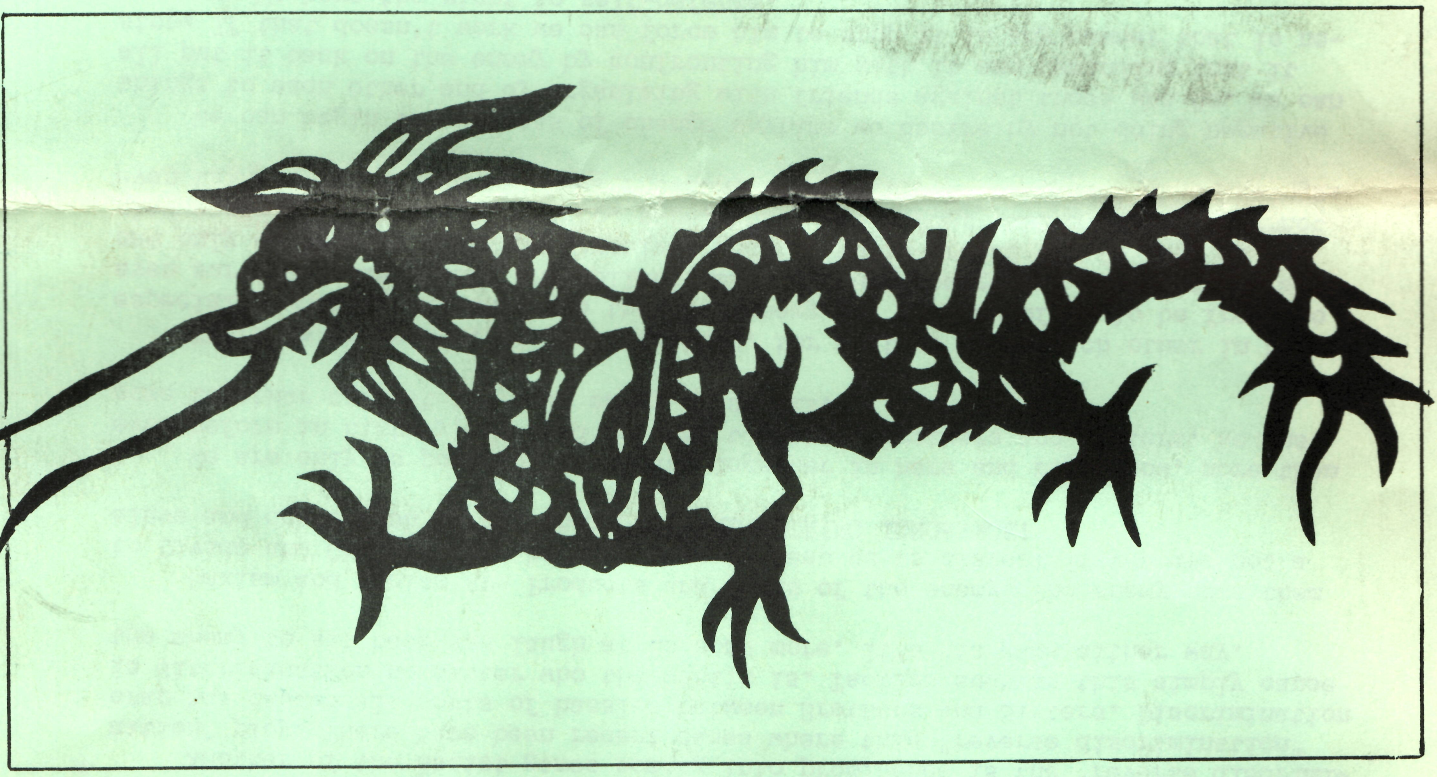
STOP PRESS! • ACTION ROCKS WALLA WALLA
SEE INSIDE P2

Vol. 1, No. 5
FREE

Anarchist Black Dragon!

WASHINGTON STATE PENITENTIARY



Dear Brothers And Sisters:

No matter what you are or who you think you are
you are all prisoners to the forces of evil.

Stop playing games with each other.
Stop fighting with each other.
Stop killing each other.

We are one class of human beings, let us come
together and turn as one to face the only enemy
of us all.

Stop playing games with each other.
Stop fighting with each other.
Stop killing each other.

The forces of evil keep us divided and conquered,
rise up above the ignorance and spit in their faces.

Stop playing games with each other.
Stop fighting with each other.
Stop killing each other.

Come together and find the power to overcome our
powerlessness.

Love And Rage,
Anarchist Black Dragon Collective

THE DRAGON SPEAKS

You know, it's really amazing how most people in prison can organize to rob, rape, beat, and murder each other. But very rarely can these same prisoners organize to fight the only enemy of us all.

It's kind of frustrating to do anything positive in prison against the enemy and watch one's back, too. And it's really heartbreaking to see all the enemy made ignorance so well ingrained in the thoughts and actions of prisoners. Especially when we all know it is ignorance.

Sexism in prison is sadly funny. It doesn't matter who is on top or who is on the bottom - it's still a homosexual act. Most people in prison are either bisexual or have had a homosexual encounter. So why do we disrespect each other so? Why do we treat homosexuals worse than rats? Shouldn't we feel ashamed of the way we treat other human beings? Buying and selling other prisoners, having sex with them and putting them down, raping, robbing, beating, and murdering them because they are weak and/or gay, is sickening and makes us just as much of a PIG as the enemy. We are all prisoners in here no matter who we think we are or what we are. Why can't we come together against our real enemy?

Are you so weak that when the enemy's boot is on your neck all you can think to do is to put your boot on your Brothers' and Sisters' necks instead of up the ass of the enemy?

And let's discuss Racism in prison. Don't you feel ridiculous calling another Brother or Sister a "nigger", a "honkey", whatever - and wanting a riot - especially when you know we're all "niggers" in the eyes of the enemy? The enemy loves it when we fight and kill each other. Who wins in a race riot? The Whites? The Blacks? The Browns? If you picked any color you're wrong. It's the enemy that wins. He kills off the "winner". The old Divide and Conquer game is all that Racism is. We aren't born Racist so why should we live as Racists?

Another of the Racist games coming into prominence is the "reverse discrimination" ploy. There have been recent cases where this "reverse discrimination" crap has caused all sorts of hassles between Brothers and Sisters. Discrimination is discrimination no matter who the victim is. Tactics such as this simply cause the enemy to sit back and laugh at us some more. It's his game either way.

Sexism and Racism are Products and Tools of the enemy. The enemy uses them to Divide and Conquer us - he uses them to keep us as slaves! If you are not a slave and don't wish to be, then **STOP THE FUCKING IGNORANCE!**

We are only as powerful as we are together in here and right now, more than ever before in history, we need to come together, Brothers and Sisters. We must come together against the only enemy of us all.

There is no reason, no justification, for what we do to each other in here, especially when we all know who the real enemy is. For any of us to be free, to even survive individually and collectively, we must change and make change. We can only do that by changing ourselves and the world around us. As long as we play games with each other - rob, rape, beat, and murder each other - we cannot even think about change and real freedom, we cannot call ourselves human beings.

We can begin the process of change anytime we desire by not doing negative things to each other and by organizing with friends against those who do. We can all put it back on the enemy by confronting him with it and demanding that it stop. If that doesn't work we can force him to stop it in any manner that is necessary. We have the right to self-defense.

Pass the word - **WE ARE ALL ONE AND WE ARE NOT THE ENEMY. UNITE! FIGHT IGNORANCE!**

Nothing to lose but our chains

A.B.D.C.

* * *

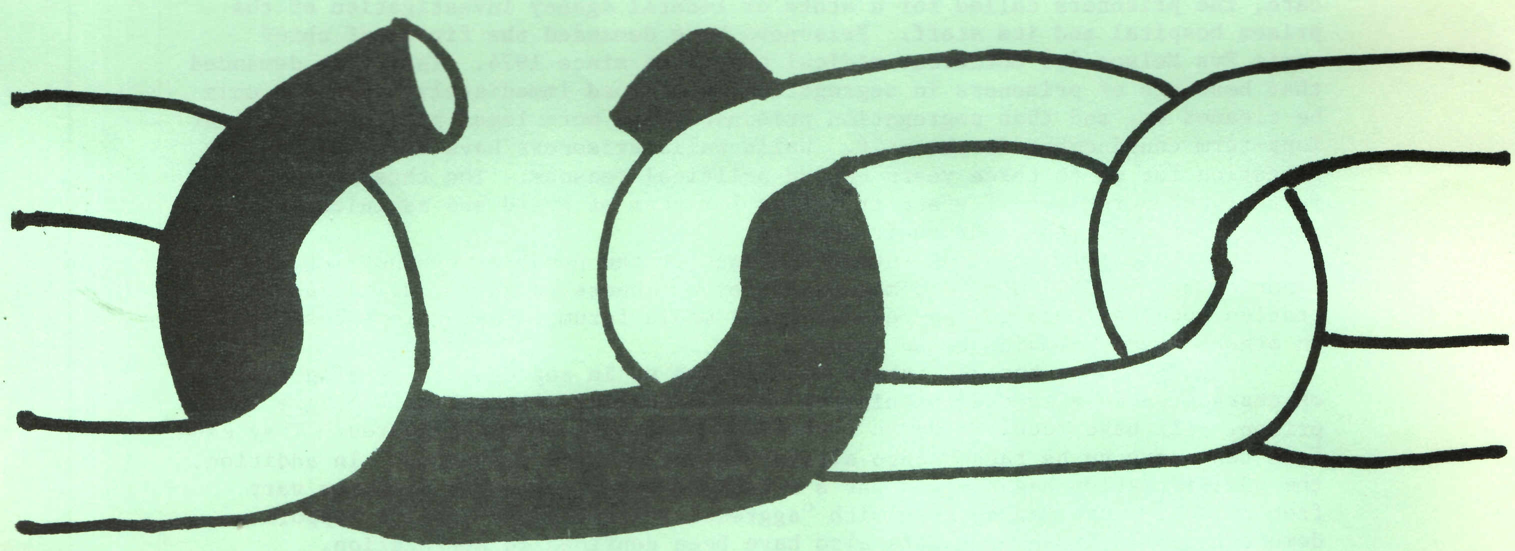
The greatest delight I take in what I learn is the teaching of it to others; for there is no relish in the possession of anything without a partner. If wisdom itself were offered me upon condition only of keeping it to myself, I should undoubtedly refuse it.

— Lucius Seneca

CARL HARP, CLYDE WASHBURN and SHANE GREEN

ARE FIGHTING ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BATTLES FOR JUSTICE & HUMAN RIGHTS TODAY

ON MAY 9th THEY STOOD UP AGAINST THE BRUTALIZING PRISON SYSTEM



DON'T ABANDON THEM TO THE ENEMY

WITH YOUR SUPPORT THEY CAN WIN. SEND A DONATION, AS MUCH AS YOU CAN, FOR LEGAL EXPENSES TO:

SUSAN WAYMIRE
18924 S.E. 116TH PL.
ISSAQUAH, WA.
98027 USA

BARBARA CONNOLLY
BOX 98772
SEATTLE, WA.
98188 USA

AND DON'T FORGET LETTERS OF SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT TO CLYDE WASHBURN # 251117, SHANE GREEN # 628148 AT BOX 520, WALLA WALLA, WA. 99362; CARL HARP # C-7100 AT CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON, SAN QUENTON, CA. 94964

STOP PRESS! ACTION ROCKS WALLA WALLA PEN

Aug 10th; This is a last minuit suplement detailing the serious situation at the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla.

HOSTAGES TAKEN

(Published by Ron Reed of the Solidarity Committee, Box 2, Stn. La Cite, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2W-2M9)

On May 9, three prisoners, Carl Harp, Clyde Washburn and Shane Green, at Washington State Prison held ten people hostage in an attempt to publicize and force negotiation on reform demands presented to the prison administration. They called for relief from the intense overcrowding that now houses four men in each of the prison's two-man cells. Conditions, program, and services, inadequate for the number of prisoners the institution was designed to hold, are made worse with overcrowding.

While 300 prisoner supporters demonstrated in People's Park outside the building in which the hostages were being held, the three demanded one hour television media time to air their grievances. After twelve hours of negotiation, a taped interview was granted. Only snatches of the hour-long interview were aired for the public.

In addition to overcrowding, prisoners sought relief from inconsistent and increasingly stiff parole board ruling, inadequate rehabilitation programs, insufficient counselling, lack of due process rights in disciplinary procedures, warehousing mentally ill prisoners inside Walla Walla, and starchy, bland, nutritionless meals. Citing examples of inadequate and grossly negligent medical care, the prisoners called for a state or federal agency investigation of the prison hospital and its staff. Prisoners have demanded the firing of chief nurse Eva Nelson for murderous medical practices since 1974. They also demanded that beatings of prisoners in segregation be stopped immediately, that the unit be cleaned up, and that segregation prisoners have more legal protection against long-term confinement in the unit. Walla Walla prisoners have been held in segregation for up to three years behind political reasons. The three prisoners further asked for out-of-state transfers for fear of guard and administration reprisals against them for their actions.

Despite warning of future violence if the demands were not met, and ignoring the strong support demonstrated by prisoners in the yard, the administration conceded only to the request for a media forum to air grievances. Action on other demands remains to be seen.

The three hostage takers were locked up in segregation pending trial on charges under a special Washington statute dealing with taking hostages in prison. All have received death threats and warnings from the guards. They each face ten years to be tacked onto already more-than-life sentences. In addition, the administration has singled out a number of other prisoners (reports vary from 14 to 20) and tagged them with "aggressive involvement" in the support demonstration. These prisoners also have been confined in segregation.

LOCKDOWN & RIOT

Since the May 9th hostage taking, the Walls have been jumping. On June 15, the prison was put under a lockdown (no privileges for inmates, visiting, exercises, etc) after a guard was killed breaking up a fight.

July 7 saw the 8 wing riot over sadistic treatment by the guards, the intense heat yet no showers, poor food, and confiscation of all personal property from family photos to legal papers as contraband and thrown away in the garbage. The damage was considerable and 230 inmates have been forced to live in the yard during the hot days and cold nights. They'll probably stay there until mid-October.

GUARDS SUSPENDED FOR BRUTALITY

On July 8, guards savagely beat 4 inmates in segregation, one of whom was Carl Harp. He spent the next week in the city hospital recovering from among other things, being raped repeatly by a nightstick. In response to the attacks, 12 guards were suspended, with pay. According to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, July 13, Harp said he and other inmates offered no resistance yet all were "maced, savagely beaten, kicked, punched and stripped" while handcuffed. Nevertheless, the whole incident was recorded on a cassette recorder and sent to the Dept. of Corrections. Harp has since been transferred to San Quentin in California.

The guards, defending themselves against blame from the administration gave the usual "self-inflicted" explanation for the injuries received by the prisoners. More interesting however, is their claim that the uprising was so tense, that Penitentiary Superintendant James Spaulding and Associate Superintendant Larry Kincheloe gave orders to shoot to kill any inmate who had gained access to the utility tunnel that runs between tiers. Asked about the "kill" order, Spaulding declined to comment. Yet according to an inmate, the men in B tier in segregation were handcuffed to the bars and heavily maced.

According to the Post-Intelligencer of July 12, "a four member panel of the Americal Correctional Association has uncovered evidence of guards 'thumping' inmates and has confirmed charges that the guards have acted unprofessionally, correctional officials said. The Reverend Robert Beh, the prison's Catholic chaplain, said he witnessed guards beating inmates. The FBI has been called in to investigate allegation of civil rights violations at the prison stemming from recent incidents."

MORE NEWS

The Post-Intelligencer reported on July 14th, penitentiary expert Anthony Travisono's report on Walla Walla. He said that prison is among the nation's worst for providing jobs for prisoners, and its guards are well below the average in training and professionalism. He also recommended that prisoners with less than 3 months to be served on their sentence be released to relieve overcrowding.

In another article, the PI describes why Rev. Matthew Naumes quit the Parole board. He said that the Parole Board has aggravated the overcrowding by keeping some men in prison longer than necessary. For instance, the board has stopped giving incentive cuts whereby an inmate would get months taken off his sentence while they were still doing time. He says the board is being molded after Gov. Dixie Le Ray's philosophy of law enforcement and "get-tough" rather than rehabilitation. Naumes disagreed that building more prisons would relieve overcrowding, they would just be filled up past their limits, he contends. He and Helen Ratcliff who quit the board last March, claim that the board "pays little heed" to the "dignity of people".

In an article on the Parold Board by Richard Zahler, as the rate of imprisonment has increased in recent years, so has the parole board's workload. One consequence is that their workload is now packed to the limits. Typically, they have 20 or 25 minutes to refresh their memories about a convict's file, talk to the convict, make a decision, dictate a statement of reason for their decision, then go to the next case.

"I don't think that's enough time to be making those decisions", says Ratcliff. "You're not going to find any Superior Court judge taking on that kind of workload and thinking he's doing justice to his office." In order to meet their schedule, the board habitually overshoots the national guidline of 15 cases a day. On top of that the board is now reviewing the cases of inmates with long terms once every two years instead of annually. Both Ratcliff and Naumes are predicting a lot of trouble resulting from the boards practices. "We're writing the scenario for a nightmare", says Father Naumes.

On the bright side, the lockdown and riot has forced the prison administration to release and/or transfer over 100 inmates to relieve the overcrowding and tension.

The latest news? (The guards want to ban the inmate's associations.) Twenty-eight guards were fired July 30th for walking off their jobs. They were protesting "unsafe conditions". There's talk of a strike by their union. We'd like to see the day when prisoners get dismissed for demonstrating against unsafe conditions.

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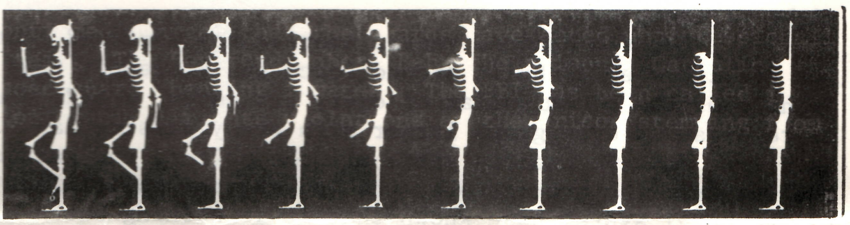
Former George Jackson Brigade member. Ed Mead has won a law suit to be transferred back to Washington from the Marion Pen.



Help put pressure on the state to make positive changes in the prison. Send letters to:
Robert Tropp, Director of Adult Corrections; Governor Dixie Lee Ray; State Senator Gordon D. Bremerton, Senate Select Committee on Criminal Justice; House Republican Speaker Duane Berentson; Lt. Governor John A. Cherburg. These people can be reached at the Capital Center Building, Olympia Washington 98504. Don't forget James Spaulding, Walla Walla Penitentiary Superintendent, Box 520, Walla Walla, Wa. 99362.

For more information and support, contact the prisoners themselves, Robert Clyde Washburn 25117, R. Shane Green 628148 at Box 520, Walla Walla, Wa. 99362 and Carl L. Harp C-7100, California State Prison, San Quentin, Ca. 94964. Also, John H. Bosch 253269 at the Walla Walla address might help you out.

On the outside, contact Susan Waymire, 18924 S.E. 116th Place, Issaquah, Wa. 98027, telephone (206) 271-5385. You can contact us, Solidarity Committee, Box 2, Stn. La Cite, Montreal Quebec H2W 2M9, but we'll have the news after the above people would.

The three prisoners involved in the May 9th incident naturally need money for legal fees (the state legal aid has refused to handle them!) and stamps to send out their necessary correspondance. Send funds to Susan Waymire, address above, and to Barbara Connolly, Box 98772, Seattle, Wa. 98188. Send stamps directly to the prisoners.

LETTER FROM CARL HARP ON MAY 9TH ACTION

The position of the Middle Class and its legal community in this country around incidents like May 9, 1979 is that if the state wishes to rape anyone, the victim is legally unable to stop it by any means other than those chosen by the rapist. When the rape is done the victim cannot do anything about it then, but petition the rapist not to rape them anymore. If the rapist does not wish to stop raping them or even if the rapist agrees not to rape them anymore and then changes his mind, the victim cannot do anything about it because only petitions to the rapist are legal. The rapist says so and if the victim does not agree, they will be raped until they do, or murdered by the rapist. Everyone in this class agress that it is not right, it is not just, but it is legal because the rapist is the law.

These people condemn Nazi Germany's inhumanity, though Hitler was the law there and therefore legally in the right. Yet, they condone America's inhumanity because America is where they live. To do otherwise is to reject their master, the confronts he allows them and the position he gives them in his system so long as they are loyal. These people pay lip service to the conditions and treatment that leads people to use illegal means, but their attention focuses on the 'illegal mean' only. They desert those who are forced to use it - their master demands that.

The only time these people use illegal means or condone them is when the master is so out of line that he is also raping them beyond toleration and without compensation. Until this happens the most these people do is petition, or share a little in the rape of others so they don't rebel against their own rape.

One must in all honesty admit that many of these people believe in the system and that it only requires reform to changes its rapist nature. These people hold back change because they fear it and want their comforts and positions now. Whatever humanity makes them come out and attempt change is hampered by their conditioning and naivity, and is wasted in voting and reforms.

These people in revolutionary organisations and movements hinder revolutionary thought and action and frustrate the intent of the people. To be blunt, they are cowards when the crisis comes, or is about to, and do everything they can consciously or unconsciously to stop or change the direction of a movement that threatens their personal security and comfort.

If you are a revolutionary however, positive change by any means necessary is your priority. By any means necessary, I underline to denote the difference between authoritarian and non-authoritarian means. The latter uses means that are necessary when they are necessary, always realising that the means determine the ends. Imposed authority and imposed leadership are authoritarian. The only acceptable "leadership" is the collective leading itself. A good ship needs no captain. On May 9th, there was no leader. We all did what needed to be done to set an example and inspire others.

Now I go into history to show that I am right to do what I have done on May 9, 1979. Those who do not know the history and have not experienced first hand the American Penal System cannot judge prisoner's tactics and means as right or wrong.

For two hundred years, America has admitted that the cornerstone of its Penal System is built around force and violence, that it is a failure, a swindle of the honest dollar of every tax payer, a sad, cruel, inhuman joke - yet it remains and even grows larger with every passing day.

For two hundred years all the police, the guards, the administration, the lawyers, the prosecutors, the judges, the politicians and everyone connected to the penal system have known that it is nothing but a collection of ghettoes, warehouses, camps, places of human misery, suffering, waste, insanity, death, and all manner of evil. But if the prisoners in them protest, they are punished, if they rebel, they are the animals, the criminal, and are treated accordingly.

Prison is constant and continuous violence on all levels of one's being, and this violence goes on twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days of the year up to forever.

I was railroaded to prison for crimes I did not do. I came here innocent with four consecutive life terms and no possibility of parole because I refused to plead guilty. I refused to cease my appeals, and my legal and political work for Justice and Human Rights. For this, everything imaginable had been done to me while here and I have seen everything imaginable.

No matter why I am in prison, I have the right as a human being to be free from violence in any shape or form that it appears in because it is a violence that no man or woman has the right to impose on me. Especially when the violence is unjust and illegal by their own moral and legal codes.

The courts could not save us before May 9, 1979 and neither will they now because our enemy controls them outright for all intents and purposes. I have tried that route many times myself and for others. I have verbally and in writing repeatedly asked, demanded and even pleaded for my enemy to cease the violence upon me and around me, and warned him of my rights to self-defence by

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my own hands or through others. That came to nothing save more violence upon me in all manner of forms.

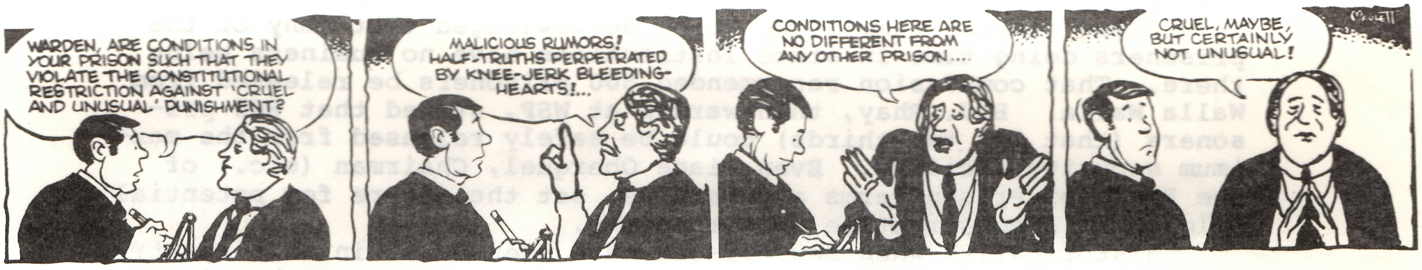
To do nothing but repeat my failures, the recorded failures, for Justice is to be a coward and as responsible as everyone else for the injustice. If they will not listen to reason and legal appeals, I have the right as a human being to free myself of the violence and them by any means necessary.

The best way to attempt to deal with this situation and possibly survive it was to find some means, i.e. threat, force, hostages, and public attention. I used a knife and fake bombs as threats. By force, I seized a piece of the earth and those on it that I could be secure in. As self-defence, I held un-ignorant people who served the enemy willingly or unwillingly whom I knew the enemy would not harm if I could help it, and I gained public attention.

Outright violence was not necessary and would have served my cause nothing. What I and my comrades were trying to do was for others as well as ourselves. We knew violence would be serving the enemy so we settled for merely exposing the enemy. I could have escaped rather than do what I did, but that would involve violence that I did not wish to use. Also, it means running away leaving others at the mercy of our common enemy.

But, I must defend my action on May 9th?

The means I used to defend myself were forced upon me. The insult to my injury is that I get punished for fighting for my legal human rights, and then I must defend myself in their courts according to their rules!


WARDEN, ARE CONDITIONS IN YOUR PRISON SUCH THAT THEY VIOLATE THE CONSTITUTIONAL RESTRICTION AGAINST 'CRUEL AND UNUSUAL' PUNISHMENT?
MALICIOUS RUMORS! HALF-TRUTHS PERPETRATED BY KNEE-JERK BLEEDING-HEARTS!...
CONDITIONS HERE ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER PRISON....
CRUEL, MAYBE, BUT CERTAINLY NOT UNUSUAL!

Women Behind Bars/LNS

If we are convicted by a jury, that jury condones the evil. If we are acquitted and changes are made, such incidents as May 9th, 1979 may never occur again. If I and my comrades are guilty of anything, we are guilty of not doing more sooner. Even Gandhi wrote at certain times (1919 and 1921 in the publication Young India): "No rules can tell us how disobedience may be done and by whom, when, and where, nor can they tell us which laws foster untruth. It is only experience that can guide us." And, "I do believe that where there is only a choice between cowardness and violence, I would advise violence."

We rebelled against tyranny, that is our right as human beings no matter what the law. Out rebellion served a vital social purpose and while in other cases the rule against hostage taking might be reasonable, it is not in this case. In this case the Law seriously encroaches upon our human rights and it had to be violated. To exalt the rule of law as an absolute is the mark of totalitarianism in a society which claims to be a democracy.

To win against this evil, all levels of struggle must be brought to bear upon it. To be aquitted here, everyone must rally to the banner of Justice and Human Rights we held high.

I and my comrades ask no one to support or to approve of our means, all we ask, even demand, is that we not be deserted to our enemy and that what we tried to do be finished for the sake of humanity. The means are not the issue here and we ask all to rally to what is the issue. Without large scale if not mass support, we lose and evil triumphs over us all.

We need protest letters, demonstrations, funds, stamps, literature, anything and one that might help. If we generate enough support, the middle class will maybe support us. Try to generate a revolution in prison and settle for a large active prison movement outside that is desperately needed by all prisoners. A movement that is effective on at least a few more levels than now.

Prisoners are ready, they lack only support and until that comes, they will not rise up politically for fear of committing suicide in the vast majority. Every class and every struggle exists in the prisons. Therefore to me, the prison struggle is mandatory and should be a support priority of the left. Here unity can be achieved with and by all and we can gain strength here to down the enemy. We are isolated because few recognise the depth and importance of the prison movements struggle. The revolution in America will not come from anywhere else but here in my opinion unless inspired from here.

We need support. It's life and death in prison. The inside and outside united can be a powerful force.

Love and Rage,

- Carl -

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Walla Walla

The following is a press release issued by the Washington Coalition Against Prisons the day after the incident: (HOSTAGE TAKING)

Prisoners in Washington State have again been forced to use dramatic means to get themselves heard. Again, overcrowding is the major issue. When Walla Walla prisoners came off their 46-day strike in May, 1977, it was with the understanding that serious efforts would be made to reduce the prison population. This was a pledge made by former secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services, Dr. Harlan McNutt. That pledge has not been honored. Instead, the population of Washington State Prison has increased from about 1200 in 1977 to 1450 today. The facility was designed to house 927. Populations in other state prisons have also increased dramatically. Monroe State Reformatory is currently at 150% capacity. Since 1977, state prisoners have written letters, hired lobbyists, filed law suits, held work stoppages and hunger strikes, and organized public demonstrations with outside supporters in attempts to get themselves heard.

To date, the governor's and state legislature's response has been to consider the merits of a capital budget calling for more prison construction. At the same time the parole board has implemented new guidelines fixing stiffer sentences. In pushing for more prisons, state officials are ignoring the advice of their own 1977 "blue ribbon" commission which acknowledged that many of the prisoners doing time in state institutions have no business being there. That commission recommended 500 prisoners be released from Walla Walla. B.J. Rhay, then warden at WSP, stated that 800 prisoners (that is, two thirds) could be safely released from the maximum security facility. Even Diane Oberquel, Chairman (sic.) of the Board of Prison Terms and Paroles, set the figure for potential release at a conservative 300 prisoners.

Historically, when new prisons have been built in this country, they have filled to beyond capacity in a few years. Nor has it been demonstrated that prisons deter crime. In fact, the opposite has been shown to be true.

Court ordered releases in Florida and experimental programs in Minnessota and Massachusetts have shown that increased incarceration is not the answer. The only long term solution to overcrowded prison conditions is the radical redistribution of wealth and power in this country. But, short of that, we support prisoner demands for release of non-violent and property offenders from Washington State Prisons.

Washington Coalition Against Prisons
P.O. Box 22272
Seattle, Washington 98122

AMERICAN PRISONERS TODAY

WE received the 24 February '79 (vol. 40 no. 3) issue of FREEDOM through our comrade Carl Harp here at the Washington State Penitentiary. We read the Belfast Anarchist Collective's article on 'Prisons and Political Status'. We would like to respond to part of it if we may, seeing's how it is talking about us prisoners.

The last line "But the question of all prisoners being political, in fact class prisoners, must be raised, and answered". We wish to say this: Not all prisoners are political or even progressive, but when prisoners rise up against the keepers and/or the State we must come to their aid. Priorities are mandatory even when we are over-all trying to do away with the whole system. Political prisoners must be supported and pr[illegible]ed. All prisoners are class prisoners and in that sense political prisoners, but all prisoners are not political or even progressive.

How do we say all prisoners are class prisoners? Very simple if one can't see that only working class and poor people fill the jails and prisons and get the shit treatment and conditions, while middle class prisoners shoot golf etc. if they go to prison. When you are arrested, guilty or not, who brings you to jail? Servants of the ruling class, right? They do so by any means necessary, and the court belongs to the ruling class also, right? And the courts with the help of the police send you to prison by any means necessary, right? And what are prisons? They are warehouses where property is kept and that property is treated anyway the ruling class wishes to treat it. Therefore it is a class question and a matter of politics. So all prisoners are class prisoners, those who recognise this and fight back are political prisoners, those who go to prison for the revolution are political prisoners also. One can become a revolutionary in prison no matter ones crimes just as any person can be a revolutionary, go to prison and become a political prisoner. There is no difference. We must support all prisoners' struggles, even to improve their lot if that is what they wish for or for freedom and the end of the system; either way we attack the system and thus the State. Prisoners who will not do anything but their time should do just that, their time, and the rest of us should ignore them except where they are being done an injustice by the State if we can't educate them or help them see reality. All levels of struggle are mandatory in our war with the State.

We hope this letter helps. Our publication, the Anarchist Black Dragon, can be obtained from COUNT DOWN 901½ Williamson St, no. 1 Madison, Wisconsin 53703. We need your support for our work and existence here in the State Penitentiary. Please help us. We want friends and communication.

Neither God nor Master
ANARCHIST BLACK DRAGON
COLLECTIVE

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Sex in Prison

by Donald Danford ©

The guards of the Oregon State Penitentiary have a free run to do anything they want, any time they want, and to anyone they want.

The prison administration has worked hard and long for several years to condition the public and the prisoners of Oregon that the keepers' form of nonsense is rational thought.

For years the keepers have told prisoners accused of prison infractions that they may have witnesses testify on their behalf before the prison disciplinary committee, as long as the witnesses are not inmates, staff members, or other persons. That doesn't make sense, but no one objects in the free world, the only hope prisoners have.

The prison administration backs the actions of the guards, whether the guards beat, mace, torture, destroymail, etc., ad nauseum. (A very few of the guards actions are detailed in the Civil Rights Act lawsuit brought by the Prisoners' Legal Services Of Oregon, 875 Idylwood Dr., SE, Salem, OR, phone (503) 399-9741).

And recently the administration gave guards the right to use prisoners as sex objects.

The president of the guards union, a nine year employee, and one of the most visible guards to both prisoners and staff, was caught having sex with a prisoner in his private, locked office. He was not prosecuted, the excuse being that the laws of Oregon, indeed the laws of the United States Constitution apply only where the prison administration wants them to apply. Guards can break the law with impunity except in extreme cases.

Imagine a prisoner craving drugs being offered drugs, drugs in abundance and a steady supply of drugs, if he will go along with the guard. That gives you some idea of free choice in a prison environment. Imagine a world where a guard can make or break a prisoner's record of "adjustment" and thereby decide if the prisoner will spend extra years in prison. That gives you an idea of "consenting adults". Imagine a world where a guard has god-like powers- he decides where the prisoner lives, who lives next to him, how the prisoner is clothed, when the prisoner is allowed extra time out of his cell- and that gives you a slight idea of the relationship between prisoner and guard.

This administration has long covered for an unregulated prison staff. (The lawsuit of the Prisoners Legal Services spans three years and includes several boxes of evidence.) The administration has devised a complex system of cover-ups for their every action, including methods to manipulate state and federal officials to cover for them. (See "Prison, vol 1, issue 1) The administration has now gone one step further- guards have now been given free reign on any prisoner that excites him.

There is no other prison in the world like Oregon's prison. Let us pray there never will be.

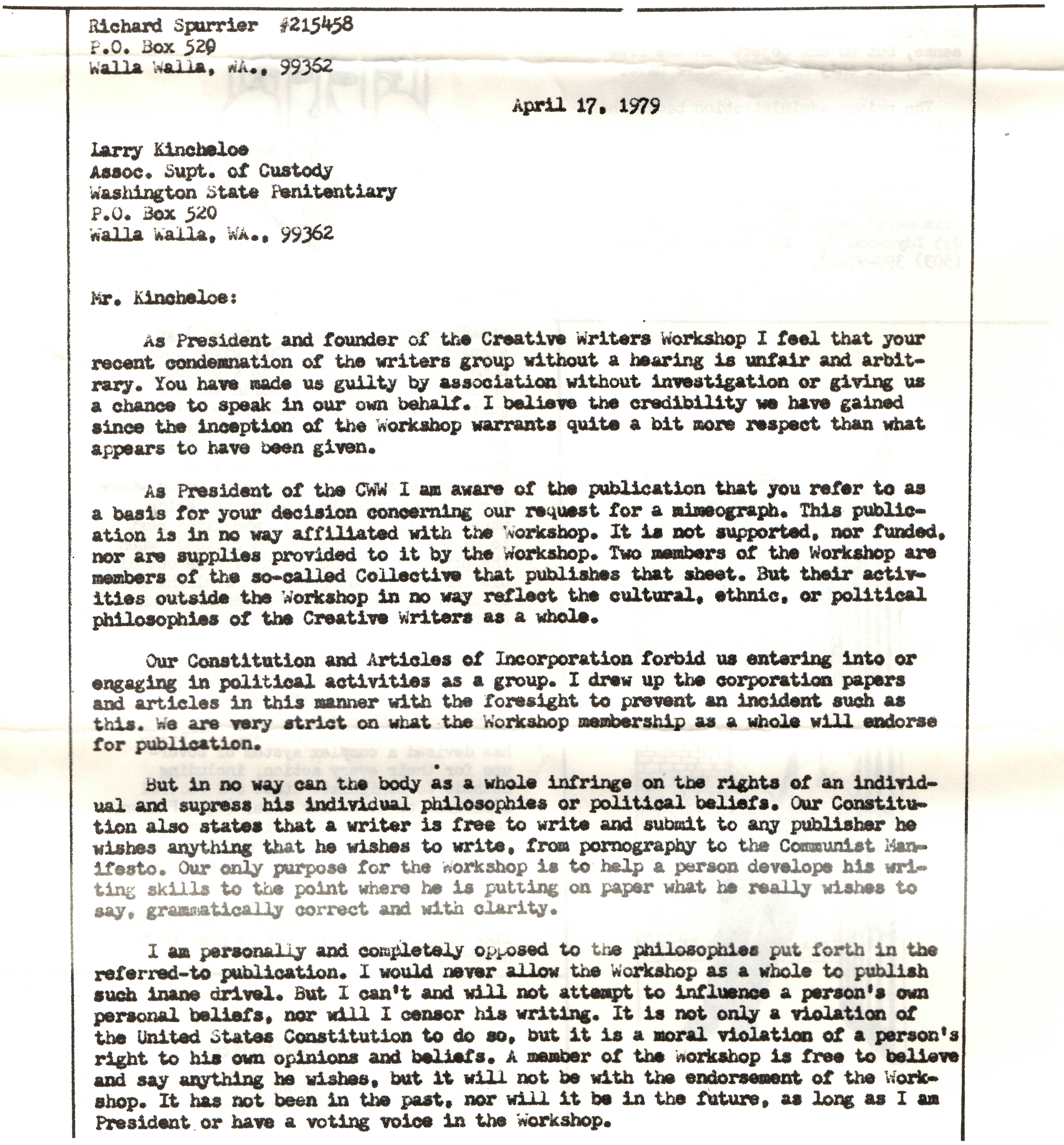
Tell me, exactly when did government of the people, by the people and for the people become government to the people, at the people and on the people?
— Robert Orben

OOPS!

Last year we ran a "beg letter" for another organisation in this prison. At the time we figured we would help out some other prisoners who had a good thing going. The organisation, the Creative Writers Workshop, is a group dedicated to helping amateur writers to polish their skills and perhaps turn a buck or two for their work.

Through an oversight on our part we failed to show that the letter was only an advertisement. Since that time the Creative Writers Workshop has been receiving the bad end of the deal. The Administration believes that the Workshop is responsible for the ANARCHIST BLACK DRAGON. This belief is not doing the Workshop a bit of good.

Both the Workshop and the Collective wrote letters to Larry Kincheloe, Associate Superintendent of Custody, and tried explaining the unfortunate circumstances to him. However, he has placed the Collective under investigation and is currently not too pleased with the Workshop. The following is what has transpired to date.



Richard Spurrier #215458
P.O. Box 520
Walla Walla, WA., 99362

April 17, 1979

Larry Kincheloe
Assoc. Supt. of Custody
Washington State Penitentiary
P.O. Box 520
Walla Walla, WA., 99362

Mr. Kincheloe:

As President and founder of the Creative Writers Workshop I feel that your recent condemnation of the writers group without a hearing is unfair and arbitrary. You have made us guilty by association without investigation or giving us a chance to speak in our own behalf. I believe the credibility we have gained since the inception of the Workshop warrants quite a bit more respect than what appears to have been given.

As President of the CWW I am aware of the publication that you refer to as a basis for your decision concerning our request for a mimeograph. This publication is in no way affiliated with the Workshop. It is not supported, nor funded, nor are supplies provided to it by the Workshop. Two members of the Workshop are members of the so-called Collective that publishes that sheet. But their activities outside the Workshop in no way reflect the cultural, ethnic, or political philosophies of the Creative Writers as a whole.

Our Constitution and Articles of Incorporation forbid us entering into or engaging in political activities as a group. I drew up the corporation papers and articles in this manner with the foresight to prevent an incident such as this. We are very strict on what the Workshop membership as a whole will endorse for publication.

But in no way can the body as a whole infringe on the rights of an individual and supress his individual philosophies or political beliefs. Our Constitution also states that a writer is free to write and submit to any publisher he wishes anything that he wishes to write, from pornography to the Communist Manifesto. Our only purpose for the Workshop is to help a person develope his writing skills to the point where he is putting on paper what he really wishes to say, grammatically correct and with clarity.

I am personally and completely opposed to the philosophies put forth in the referred-to publication. I would never allow the Workshop as a whole to publish such inane drivel. But I can't and will not attempt to influence a person's own personal beliefs, nor will I censor his writing. It is not only a violation of the United States Constitution to do so, but it is a moral violation of a person's right to his own opinions and beliefs. A member of the workshop is free to believe and say anything he wishes, but it will not be with the endorsement of the Workshop. It has not been in the past, nor will it be in the future, as long as I am President or have a voting voice in the Workshop.

As to the question of the mimeograph. I propose that I am in a position to be, and will be, personally responsible for the machine and anything that is to be printed on it. There are no supplies in the institution that are functional on this machine. The stencils needed for the production of printed matter are unlike anything the institution furnishes its offices. The printing is readily distinguishable from any machine in the institution. All I have to do to control the material that we use on the machine is keep it in my cell and ration it out on a need basis. Nothing will be printed without my authorization. There are duplicating machines in the institution that have less supervision than that available in our clubroom area.

If you really wanted to investigate, you would find out that the Creative Writers Workshop is non-political, non-ethnic, and non-cultural. We subscribe to no philosophies as a group and it is an insult and unfair to me personally to be arbitrarily put in a category of political philosophies that I am morally and politically opposed to.

On behalf of the Creative Writers Workshop I ask that you take a more objective view, looking at all the evidence presented, and don't condemn before all the facts are in.

Respectfully,

Rick Spurrier, Pres.

This letter reflects the attitudes and practices of the Creative Writers Workshop as a whole.

John H. Bosch

Carl L. Harp

Barry Cox

Chuck Kurth

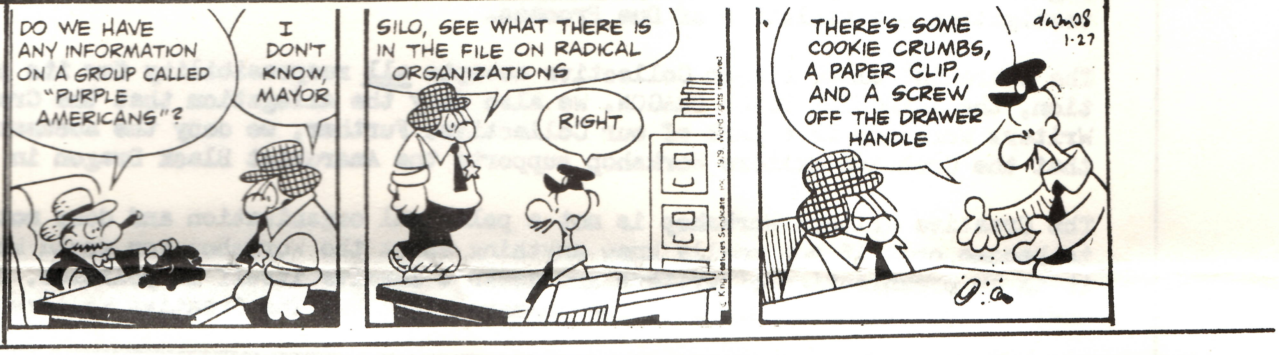
Roy Skelton

Bill Morrison

Rick Peth

James Olson

Dennis Shegrud


DO WE HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON A GROUP CALLED "PURPLE AMERICANS"?
I DON'T KNOW, MAYOR
SILO, SEE WHAT THERE IS IN THE FILE ON RADICAL ORGANIZATIONS
RIGHT
THERE'S SOME COOKIE CRUMBS, A PAPER CLIP, AND A SCREW OFF THE DRAWER HANDLE
1-27

As you can see by this letter, the Creative Writers Workshop states that the ANARCHIST BLACK DRAGON is not a product of the Workshop. The Workshop is completely non-political. They do put out a fine publication, the PENOLOGY LAMPOON, which has been known to get a bit outrageous from time to time, but that is dedicated to the use of satire as its main weapon.

The following is a copy of the letter sent to Larry Kincheloe by some members of the Anarchist Black Dragon Collective. It is in a somewhat similar vein, being an honest statement and desirous of clearing up the misconceptions the Administration has of the Creative Writers Workshop. It was sent to Mr. Kincheloe at the same time as the letter from the Workshop. We understand it was accepted with the same courtesy and respect as the one from the Creative Writers. Oh, well.

The spirit of the Czar lives on.

Mr. Larry Kincheloe
Associate Superintendant of Custody
Washington State Penitentiary
P.O. Box 520
Walla Walla, WA., 99362

RE: The Anarchist Black Dragon Collective

April 16, 1979

Mr. Kincheloe:

The Anarchist Black Dragon Collective, of which we are members, has elected us to write this letter to you and speak with any State Official in their behalf. We are Carl L. Harp, 126516, 3-B-7 Wing, and John E. Bosch, 253269, 3-B-7 Wing.

We understand that a memorandum requesting authorization for a mimeograph machine to be in the Creative Writers Workshop was denied on the grounds that the Creative Writers Workshop is allegedly involved with the Anarchist Black Dragon Collective and/or our publication the ANARCHIST BLACK DRAGON.

First off, Mr. Kincheloe, this is entirely untrue. A few members of our Collective are also members of the Creative Writers Workshop, but in no way does the Collective run the Workshop and neither does the Workshop support the Collective, materially or otherwise.

Secondly, Mr. Kincheloe, you are violating the Constitutional Rights of every resident who is a member of the Creative Writers Workshop by attempting to police whatever political beliefs they have or publications they may read or have in the course of time had in their possession. Prisoners have the right, under the First Amendment, to their political beliefs and opinions. They also have the right to print them if they so desire. With your actions in this matter you have also violated the rights these same prisoners have to Due Process. Many Clubs in this institution have mimeograph machines so, therefore, you have also violated the Workshops right to Equal Justice.

At the same time by the same actions you have violated the same Constitutional Rights of every member of the Anarchist Black Dragon Collective.

According to information received from you, through a Correctional Officer you spoke with over the telephone about us, we have been and are now under investigation by this institution. Therefore, you have again violated the Constitutional Rights of both Organizations by applying punishment before completion of the investigation - a violation of Due Process.

The Anarchist Black Dragon Collective accepts all responsibility for its publication, the ANARCHIST BLACK DRAGON. We also deny the allegation that the Creative Writers Workshop is a part of our Collective. Further, we deny the accusation that the Creative Writers Workshop supports the Anarchist Black Dragon in any way.

The Creative Writers Workshop is not a political organization and does not wish to become one. If you really knew anything about the Workshop you would know that it is an organization of writers and doesn't involve itself in politics, no matter what the political opinions of the members might be. The Creative Writers Workshop

Why The Black Flag?

The black flag is the symbol of Anarchy. It evokes reactions ranging from horror to delight among those who recognize it. Find out what it means and prepare to see it at more public gatherings.

Why is our flag black? Black is the shade of negation. The black flag is the negation of all flags. It is a negation of nationhood which pits the human race against itself and denies the unity of mankind. Black is a mood of anger and outrage at all the hideous crimes against humanity perpetrated in the name of allegiance to one state or another. It is anger and outrage at the insult to human intelligence implied in the pretenses, hypocrisies and cheap chicaneries of governments.

Black is also the colour of mourning; the black flag which cancels out the nation also mourns its victims -- the countless millions murdered in wars, external and internal, to the greater glory and stability of some bloody state.

But black is also beautiful. It is a colour of determination, of resolve, of strength. A colour by which all others are clarified and defined. The black flag means all these things. We are proud to carry it, sorry we have to, and look forward to the day when such a symbol will no longer be necessary.

is totally non-political.

We see that what you have done is to attempt to have prisoners police other prisoners, and this is also illegal under the law. Guilt by association is likewise unlawful. Rick Spurrier, the President of the Creative Writers Workshop, has absolutely nothing to do with our organization and will not police us for you. If he did support us, that would also be his right under the law, just as he is allowed by the law to hold any political beliefs he sees fit. The Anarchist Black Dragon Collective and Rick Spurrier have nothing in common politically. We fail to understand, therefore, how you have come to the conclusion that he is responsible for us. He also has the right to a fair trial before you condemn and punish him.

The Creative Writers Workshop is one of the most positive and productive Clubs in this institution, and what you have done to them is rather cheap. This Collective will not use, and has no desire to use, anything of the Workshop. We are not stupid or selfish enough to put the Workshop in a bind like that.

Our publication, if you noticed, is not mimeographed. It never has been.

If you wish to investigate the Anarchist Black Dragon Collective, feel free. We will not hide under a rock and we have broken no laws. But don't punish others for our deeds or words, and do not attempt to force or ask us to police them or them us. We will not be policed. Neither will we police anyone else.

NEITHER GOD NOR MASTER

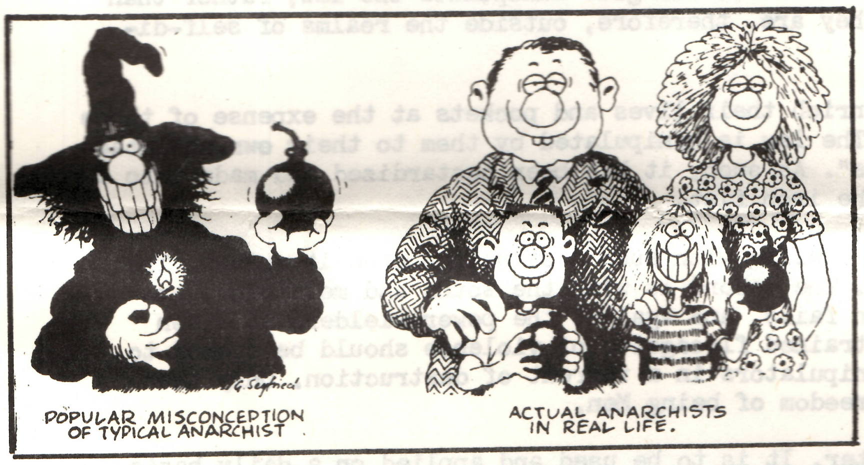
For the Anarchist Black Dragon Collective;

Carl L. Harp, 126516

John H. Bosch, 253269

For those of you who may have noticed, there are two names and signatures on each letter that look and sound very similar. Perhaps even know to a few of you out there. These names and signatures belong to two individuals who are members of both the Workshop and the Collective. However, the two activities do not coincide.

As of the time of this writing no official of the State has inquired as to the purpose of the Collective. There have been a few strange things happening around the Workshop that might be a part of an ongoing investigation, but then again, might not. The other day one of the guards burst into the room occupied by the Workshop, sniffed rapidly three or four times in quick succession, and explained that he was looking for "a big green cabinet". But maybe he was looking for a big green cabinet.


G. Seyfried
POPULAR MISCONCEPTION OF TYPICAL ANARCHIST
ACTUAL ANARCHISTS IN REAL LIFE.

We are still waiting with great patience for the Sergeant that Larry Kincheloe promised he would send to talk with us. But this is a big prison and maybe he got lost. We all know that the Administration wouldn't lie to a prisoner. I mean, it's not like they're dishonest or sneaky or something.

In the meantime we will continue to do the best we can with what we have. It might even turn out that they will give the Collective a room to have meetings in, conduct political seminars, whatever. But no matter what happens we will continue to do our business. We do have a bit of sadness, however, that a fine group such as the Creative Writers Workshop should be harrassed and hassled by the Administration for something they have not done. But the State is good at bum-beefing folks.

- A.B.D.C. -

CONCERNING VIOLENCE

Quite a few people seem to think that I have this propensity for violence and death. While it may appear to be so on the surface, a deeper examination of the situation reveals that the opposite is the case.

The object of my acts, my destination if you will, is life. The forces I employ are on occasion violent, but violence is only a means and not an end in itself. When reason fails, or more correctly, when the application of reason is rejected or a reasonable course of action is dismissed by the parties to the confrontation, violence is often the only way to accomplish the goal one strives for.

Many people operate under the assumption that they have a "right" to force and coerse someone else into doing their bidding. To this end they deny to others the "right" they claim for themselves. As such, they have set themselves up as masters and the occasion arises when they must, for the sake of freedom at the very least, be taken down.

If the force of arms is employed as a tactic against one, that one oftentimes requires the use of force in a defensive capacity. If the one employing the initial force is using it against the other, then the other has the right to protect himself with an equal or greater force. The choice is either the destruction of the original aggressor or complete capitulation to his demands. As such, unless the object of the resistance is to humble ourselves before the tyrant, then force is necessary and mandated by the occurence. Struggle without victory is self-destructive.

An equal force, on the other hand, leaves the outcome of the dispute in question. The odds of success or failure have been manipulated, but the end result is still a matter of luck, speed, or in some cases, deception.

However, if we meet a threat of force with force, or actual violence with even greater violence, then the odds of our success and the continuation of our existence is greatly enhanced. We are doing the best we can to defend our natural sovereignty and to block the aggression of the attacker at a later time.

But what about the law?

The law itself is built on a system of coersion and intimidation that requires the threat and use of force to exact the end it claims to hold. Yet it is apparent that only part of this point is true. If the goal of law is to protect the weak from aggression by a stronger force, then it would appear that all is well and good.

We find, however, that such is not the case. Rather, the law is used and manipulated by many who feel that they, being the upholders of the law, are above that which they claim to defend and protect. As such, they see themselves as gods and the powers they employ as the just powers wielded by gods upon mere mortals according to the whims of the gods themselves. The gods manipulate the law, rather than the gods being subject to it. They are, therefore, outside the realms of self-discipline.

Power is used by them to enrich their lives and pockets at the expense of those less powerful than themselves. The law is manipulated by them to their own advantage rather than that of their "wards". As such, it has been bastardized and made into a lie - the velvet glove hiding the iron fist.

There are only two ways of dealing with such a situation once it arises. The first is with the use of reason. The second is with the sound and methodical application of violence. If reason fails, and against the power-wielders it often does, then the completely unrestrained floodgates of violence should be opened to drown both the power and its manipulators in a torrent of destruction. Only then can we claim and practice the freedom of being Men.

Freedom is an everyday matter. It is to be used and applied on a daily basis. If those who wish to usurp this freedom from our hands be overcome by the very weapons they have chosen to employ, then there is no arguement against their complete and total destruction in the clash following the unveiling of their intent. As can be seen, they have simply succumbed to their own desires.

In conclusion then, we see that violence is usually necessary when confronting the aggressor. It is often our best weapon. Therefore, use it well.

- John H. Bosch -

You Are The Power

by John Bosch, Member of Creative Writers

It's pretty much common knowledge that the State is gearing for a full scale riot. The newspapers and television media are running stories about the prospects for violence in the prisons throughout the State. Heat is coming down from all directions on various resident programs and the guards are reacting to their own paranoia in the usual fashion.

Strip searches are getting out of hand. Cell searches are getting frequent and the Administration is locking people in "Big Red" (the isolation unit) because "there is no other place to put them."

With all these things happening, there is a great deal of fear running around the yard. People are wondering when the whole scene will fall apart. This is only helping the administration.

Time and again, Olympia makes the statement that the convicts are running the institution. They say that the guards are just here to contain us. As for drugs and violence—well, Olympia and the administration say a lot that means absolutely nothing. The only trouble is, the only voices really being heard are theirs.

Some people are asking: "What can we do about it?" Sure, the guards have the guns and we've already seen that they will use them, so how do you fight that?

Easy. Don't give them the excuse for using them. Laugh at them. When they say: "Take it off, fella," do a Gypsy Rose Lee routine—"Let me entertain you. Let me make you smile . . ."

Are you carrying a shiv? Stick it where it will do the most good—in the trash! All the administration needs to close this place down is somebody getting killed again. Remember, Redwine? The hospital didn't do him a whole hell lot of good, did it?

Since the administration is using the line: "The cons run the joint," let's show them we can do it right. It sure would disappoint them if we stole all their excuses, wouldn't it? If we run it, let's do it in such a way that it's obvious to all that we know what we are doing.

Since that incident with a former Associate Superintendent on the other side of the mountain, our grievances are looking a little more valid. If the cops are killing each other and the cons aren't, maybe that will get the citizens thinking about what the real problems are. Then we will have even more credibility and the administration less.

The better we look, the worse they look—and, the worse they look, the better we do.

So, today—I will be cool!

NOTE

This article was written several months ago for the prison paper, UNDER THE GUN, owned and operated by a prisoner group here. But what it says has to do with the topic of this issue.

It was written with the by-line of the Creative Writers Workshop at the time and its inclusion is simply because of the subject matter contained within.

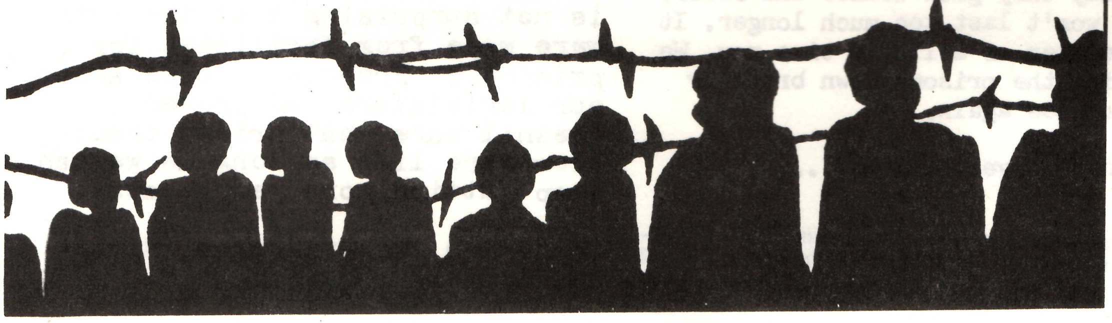
PRISON LAW MONITOR

Prison Law Monitor

The PRISON LAW MONITOR, issued monthly, is the first publication to report all state and federal prisoners' rights and juvenile (institutionalized) cases. In addition, PLM contains practical articles by the country's foremost experts in prisoners' rights litigation and legislation; contains annotated articles on priority issues that represent a conflict in holdings between jurisdictions, reports on the activities of organizations and relevant publications in the criminal justice field; "Prisoners' Forum", in which prisoners give their comments and views on issues affecting their lives in institutions, and includes a section of litigation materials submitted for publication by practitioners in the field.

PLM is a project of Institution Educational Services, a non-profit organization founded in 1978 by James L. Potts, author of THE PRISONER'S SELF HELP LITIGATION MANUAL (Lexington Books, 1976). IES also operates a national clearinghouse providing legal materials to advocates, including prisoners.

Available from IES, Inc., 1346 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 227, Washington, D.C. 20036. (202) 466-3767. Subscription rates for one year: $25.00 for private firms/individuals, courts, libraries, schools, government agencies; $20.00 per year for non-profit public interest organizations; $6.00 per year for prisoners who can afford it.



VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

'No, We Won't Go Again'

I read with outrage last Thursday's article, " 'Vets First' Under War Recall Plan." That "Pentagon officials" would suggest that I — a Vietnam veteran — should participate at the risk of life, limb, and mind in another of their dubious wars, must be the absolute pinnacle of arrogance.

And I cannot help but wonder how many Vietnam veterans these officials believe will actually obey the order to once again defer their private pursuits to trudge off and serve as rocket fodder for Pentagon policy; once again leave loved ones and careers behind, surrendering individual responsibility for their own lives — and deaths — to "Pentagon officials" seeking to fatten the arsenal of "pre-trained people."

How many Vietnam veterans still recovering from their war experience, from which they were loosed on American streets without any help from the American government in readjusting, outside five points on a Civil Service exam and a pittance doled out for approved training courses, are going to once again allow themselves to be subjected to whatever garish horror our officials dream up in response to what they perceive as "grave peril?"

And how many Vietnam veterans will answer the call of a broken promise—the promise that, if they survived Vietnam and satisfied the remainder of their six year obligation in reserve, they would be last to be called to war?

I think these questions must be relevant in estimating the number of Vietnam veterans actually available for duty in the proposed Ready Reserve. It might be that it will be far easier to enter a Vietnam veteran's name on a Ready Reserve list than to make him fight another war.

SCOTT J. PIRKLE
Snoqualmi

Woman prison activist raped by guard

Below is part of a letter sent to the Torch/La Antorcha concerning the rape of Shirley Keller, an active member of the Lucasville 14. In the past, to protest the complete denial of human rights to prisoners, the group wrote over 7,500 letters to government officials and conducted a hunger strike. When this failed to get results, they sent their own cut-off fingers to U.S. officials and the Soviet Mission to the UN. So far their active resistance has been met with brutality, strip-cell confinement, forced hospitalization and drugging, isolation—and now rape!

Dear Torch:

As you know, Shirley Jean Keller is one of a group of prisoners known as the Lucasville 14, having renounced her citizenship in August 1977. She has been fighting with us ever since.

The government took custody of Shirley, and moved her to a federal prison in an attempt to break her away from us...she was first taken to Alderson, West Virginia. She continued to organize while there. She was then moved to Pleasanton, California, the same prison that Patty Hearst was in.

Shirley was recently raped by a male guard at Pleasanton and as a result is pregnant! When Shirley reported that she had been raped she was thrown in the hole in an attempt to force her into silence, and force her to consent to an abortion, and she has refused both.

The media in California got onto it, and a radio station got in to interview her, and she told it like it was. She was then moved, along with another woman prisoner who was a witness to the rape, to a county jail in San Francisco. A couple of lawyers and some Bay Area political activists called a press conference for her, and some people from Congressman Dellums' office got in to speak with her.

Yesterday I received another letter from Shirley telling me that she has been moved again, this time to a men's federal prison in San Diego, and she and her witness are being kept in an isolation unit there. She only gets out of her cell 45 minutes a day, and they are pressing her to abort, and she is still refusing and stating that she wants to leave the country and have the baby.

Richard Armstrong
Lucasville 14

There is a book outside, I hear, that says God created a place called Hell so that those of us who refuse to "tow the line" can be punished with terrible tortures forever.

But that ain't exactly true.

Men build the prisons. Men pour the concrete, set the stone and iron in place.

But maybe they aren't men at all. Maybe the Cylons just got a less noticable product.

Hells cost money. They want to build more of them. Some people just can't get enough horror, I guess.

But the worst part of the whole mess isn't inside these prison walls.

The burden of these rapes, these murders, these beatings, is carried by the people outside. Your friends and families bear the weight of taxes, grief, loneliness, and a thousand other pains and punishments.

Yeah, one way or another every one of us is in Hell. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year in and year out, we all do our time for the Forces of Evil. Don't know about you, Brothers and Sisters, but a whole bunch of us are getting tired of the routine.

Hand me that shovel, Brother, I'll help you dig to freedom. Hang tough, Sister, I'll help you with your load. Ain't no doubt but that we got to help ourselves and each other.

Each day we grow stronger and greater in numbers. Each day they grow weaker and fewer. These vampires won't last too much longer. It can only be a matter of a little time now. We will win, tearing the prisons down brick by brick, never to rise again.

Hand me that shovel, Brother...

All over this country, more and more Americans are beginning to understand that the federal government does not solve problems; the federal government IS the problem.

— U.S. Senator Jesse Helms (R.-N.C.)

One new prison...

New prison

Plans for the new medium security prison have finally been approved and construction could begin this month. The 288 bed, $13 million pen will be built by Bradbury and Stamm Construction Co. of Albuquerque.

The prison will house 96 women and 182 men in a 12-building complex near the "honor farm." Plans include the probability of expansion to hold 182 more prisoners in the future. 75% of its heating is supposed to be provided by solar energy.

The gym and chapel have been eliminated from the blueprints in order to keep costs within the budget originally approved by the 1977 state legislature. It is not surprising that the cuts were made from facilities for prisoners' programs. Once again, our legislature had proved it doesn't care what prison conditions are like so long as we can keep putting more people away.

Coalition For Prisoners' Rights Newsletter

A Bakke-style suit in Texas

Affirmative action plan at TDC under attack

By LOLA CASTILLO

HOUSTON, March 23—On Feb. 15, three racist prisoners filed suit against the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC) for "reverse discrimination." These three, Gary W. Warner, Francis X. Leahy, and Steven J. Caldwell, are prisoners at the Ramsey Unit I in Rosharon, Texas.

This Bakke-type suit was filed months after the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC) was forced to implement an affirmative action plan. A group of progressive Black and Chicano prisoners had won a suit against TDC for enforcing a racist segregation policy by maintaining and operating racially segregated cells, cell blocks, and dormitories.

The original suit, known as Lamar v. Coffield, exposed the TDC for discriminating against oppressed prisoners, mainly Blacks and Chicanos, in all areas of prison life: housing, job and school opportunities, medical care, rehabilitation programs, vocational training, assignments, promotions, and transfers.

Currently, Warner, Leahy, and Caldwell state in their racist suit, "There had never been a judicial determination that the Texas Department of Corrections was guilty of racial discrimination . . . nor at any time has the TDC ever admitted to racial discrimination, and that therefore, there is no legal justification whatsoever for the implementation of an affirmative action plan that imposes harsh and discriminatory quotas and conditions of confinement on white inmates confined in Texas prison units."

The rest of the suit lists points that reflect the racism of the three inmates and the society they grew up in. In summary, they try to say that the Black prisoners are already in the privileged position ("Black inmates RUN the institutions comprising the TDC"), that their own racist attitudes can lead to clashes in the close and admittedly miserable conditions of prison life ("in the close confinement of a cell, nothing is more obnoxious to the white inmate than to be forced to hear 'Soul' or 'Chicano' music blasting"), and that it is the fault of the prisoners themselves that they are in jail ("it is irrational and illogical not to acknowledge that inmates are confined because of a demonstrated inability to cope with normal social pressures in free world society").

The Warner, Leahy, and Caldwell suit, just like the Bakke case, rests upon the great lie of "reverse discrimination." This rallying cry of the racists is a successor to the old and outworn slogan of "separate, but equal."

DEFEND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The purpose of affirmative action programs generally, is to open up jobs and opportunities to Black people, other oppressed minorities, women, and disabled people who historically have been denied equal opportunities in employment, education, housing, etc.

The fact that **only** poor people go to prison is not a coincidence and certainly not due to the "inability to cope with normal social pressures in free world society" as these three absurd racists claim. It is rather, because capitalism, as an inhumane system which places profits before human need, forces people out of necessity to commit crimes of survival. When poor people have to steal to eat and when people are **driven** to drugs, prostitution, etc., because of unemployment, racism, sexism, and illiteracy, it is the fault of the capitalists who force these miserable conditions upon millions of poor people in this country, as well as abroad.

The fact that tensions exist between Third World people and whites is due to the centuries old indoctrination that we have been subjected to from the moment we're born until the very day we die. The capitalists who control the wealth in this country are the same people who control the media and impose racist and sexist stereotype roles and images of men and women, be they Black, Brown, white, Native American, or Asian.

With unemployment more than twice for oppressed workers than for whites, with oppressed workers earnings averaging 60% that of whites, with oppressed people under-represented in schools of higher learning, prison jobs, and the professions; with minorities denied equal access to medical care, decent housing, and community services; with the poisonous ideology and practice of racism permeating every aspect of life in the U.S., the appeal to "reverse discrimination" is nothing more than a thinly-veiled defense of white supremacy. It is a slogan, which like the Nazis' "rights for whites," reeks of racism.

Whatever the racism, over-crowding, brutality by guards and building tenders, prison frame-ups, slave work, and human misery that makes up prison daily life, it is not just limited to TDC. It could be Sing Sing, Attica, Soledad, Walla Walla, or anywhere in the prison system.

The racist attacks on affirmative action are harmful since it is in the interest of all poor people, including prisoners, to resist attempts to divide them. When the system tries to pit white against Blacks and Chicanos, it is time for all of us to respond: **An injury to one is an injury to all!**

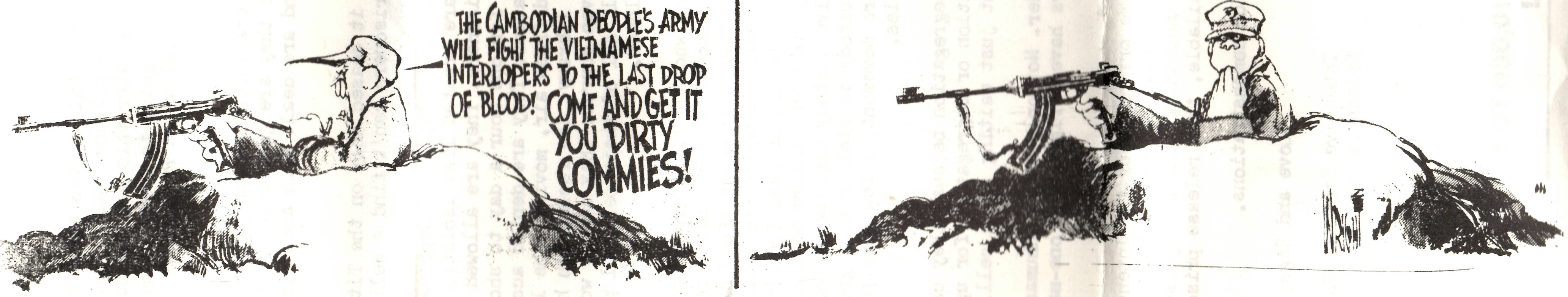
*** NOTE ***

At the beginning of this issue we mentioned the fact that it doesn't matter what name it goes under because it is evident that discrimination is discrimination. Names, like the labels on various commodities, can be used to hide the real facts from our viewing.

But hiding the facts does not in any way change the very structure of truth. Are we to be constantly fooled by their propaganda claims? Certainly not! Once we know the truth, once we have looked into it and recognized it for what it really is, we will refuse to accept the lie.

DISCRIMINATION IS DISCRIMINATION.

Let's stop playing the Man's game. We are not here because we play his games, are we?

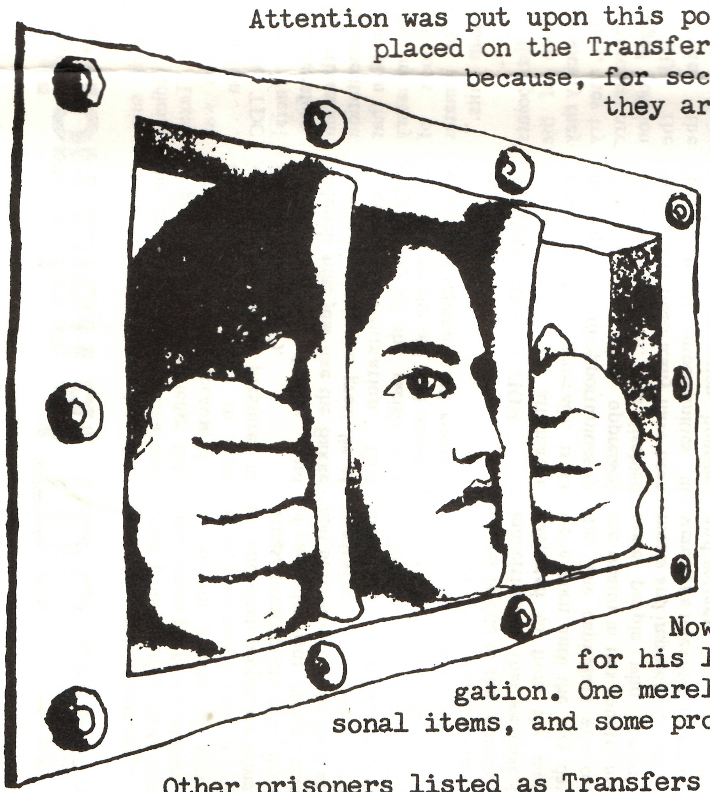

THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY WILL FIGHT THE VIETNAMESE INTERLOPERS TO THE LAST DROP OF BLOOD! COME AND GET IT YOU DIRTY COMMIES!

It's Time For Action

Dear People,

Earlier this year a prisoner was in the Institution Hospital. He was asked by a guard if he had a cell to go to in the main population. The prisoner said, "No, but give me an hour or two and I will have." Twenty minutes later this man was put into Isolation and listed on the Institution Transfer Sheet (going to every place of importance in the Institution for both Staff and Prisoners) as in Protective Custody.

The only people who transfer to Protective Custody are informers and prisoners who are afraid to be in the main line population because they are gay, weak, or in debt. All are considered a security risk by prisoners and are dealt with accordingly or preyed upon.



Attention was put upon this policy publicly and it ceased only on the Titles placed on the Transfer Sheet. Because prisoners can't find a cell or because, for security reasons, they desire a single-man cell, they are still transferred to Isolation or Segregation. Once there they are treated like Isolation or Segregation prisoners. They are allowed out of their cells for one hour a day to shower and have recreation. They are denied access to sunshine and fresh air, movies, the library, the law library, the recreation hall, the gym, and even church. They cannot work or go to school. All of their personal property is disallowed.

The prisoner who was transferred from the Hospital to Isolation was finally released. Approximately two weeks after his release he was nearly strangled to death by prisoners who thought he came from Protective Custody and might inform on them. Now he is in Protective Custody because he fears for his life. Protective Custody is similar to Segregation. One merely has a little more movement, a few more personal items, and some programs and activities.

Other prisoners listed as Transfers to Isolation or Segregation because they can't find a cell or desire a single-man cell remain in Isolation or Segregation for up to and over a month under punitive conditions and treatment just waiting for a cell.

This must stop no matter what Title it appears under. Not only is it inhuman, but it is against the Law. Under that same Law prisoners have a right to a one-man cell.

The only way to stop it is with public attention. We prisoners of the Intensive Security Unit (Isolation, Segregation, and Death Row) of the Washington State Penitentiary ask you, the Public, to stop this illegal and inhuman treatment of prisoners. If the prisons are so overcrowded that no cells are available, then release prisoners.

Please protest this injustice by phone, mail, and/or demonstrations.

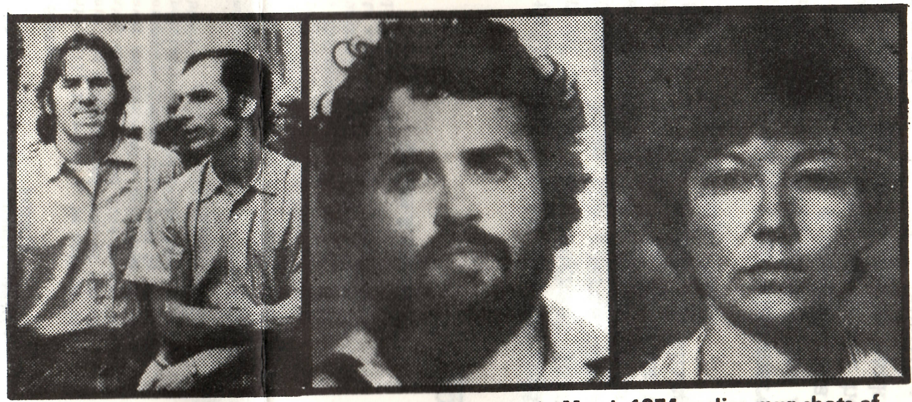
Love and Rage,

Intensive Security Unit
Prisoners, Wn. State Pen.

THE ODDS AGAINST THEM WERE 10,000 TO 1
BUT... WHAT THE HELL!

REMIRO, LITTLE APPEAL HEARD

Legal Thicket Continues For Ex-SLAers



Russell Little and Joe Remiro as they are led to court in March 1974; police mug shots of Bill and Emily Harris

Joe Remiro, Russ Little, Bill and Emily Harris remain prisoners of the state as a result of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) urban guerrilla activity in 1973-74. All have been sentenced to long prison terms and have been subjected to continuing harassment and abuse while in custody. (See past FEs) The following is a report from Russ on the legal and penal status of the four and centers on a recent judicial appeal of his and Joe's conviction for the 1973 assassination of an Oakland, Calif. school official.

About the appeal: Joe and I are being used as pawns in an ongoing struggle between "liberal" and reactionary politicians in California. Our appeal was heard by a three judge panel in the Sacramento appellate district. The presiding judge of that district—the head pig, a Reagan appointee named Puglia—appointed himself and another reactionary Reagan appointee to hear our case and for some unexplained reason the Judicial Counsel appointed the third judge who is a Brown appointee and an alleged "liberal."

We were both supposed to have automatic reversals coming because of a California Supreme Court decision in another case in August 1977 that ruled that a specific instruction that was given to holdout jurors in a hung jury is coercive and illegal and grounds for an automatic reversal or appeal—since that same exact instruction had been given in our trial after the jury was out 11 days, we were both in a position to take advantage of that decision.

We were lucky because they would have never made that decision originally on our appeal—we snuck in by the backdoor! Anyway on Feb. 27, the opinion was made public on our appeal. It was written by Puglia and was an attack on the present Calif. Supreme Court, the Brown appointed judges, and Gov. Brown himself, by inference.

Although all three judges confirmed my reversal, they (the two Reagan reactionaries who signed the opinion) used me to attack the law that "forced" them to overturn my conviction. They refused to overturn Joe's conviction because they couldn't stand the thought of both of us getting off and because they want to force the Calif. Supreme Court itself to overturn Joe's conviction and get the blame.

Excerpts from the opinion were quoted on TV and in newspapers all over Calif. with everyone saying that we are guilty as hell and what a shame it is that my conviction got reversed on a trivial technicality! The third judge, the Brown appointee, didn't sign the opinion. He wrote a dissenting opinion on Joe that said Joe's conviction should have been overturned on the same issue that mine was decided on. The two pigs justified not reversing Joe's by pretending that Joe had been convicted by the jury before the illegal instruction was read to the jury—even though the jury came back into the courtroom and gave the guilty verdicts against both of us at the same time, after the illegal instruction was given.

Every lawyer that we know has said this is the most blatently political opinion they have ever seen and all of us were shocked by the fact that they reversed me and not Joe—we expected either both of us (if they followed the law) or neither of us to get reversed. I guess the fact that the Brown judge was appointed to our appeal by an outside body (the Judicial Counsel) shows that the "liberals" expected some shit like this to be pulled against them.

So now, the Attorney General has asked the Calif. Supreme Court to hear my case and reverse the appeals court—i.e., uphold my conviction. I will know by the end of the month if they are going to hear it. If not, my reversal is final and the D.A. has 60 days to start retrial proceedings against me. The parole board will also have to set a parole date for the escape attempt charges since that will be all I will be in prison behind—they will probably try to extend my sentence beyond the normal limits.

Bill and Emily go to a "serious offenders hearing" in April where they are threatening to extend their 1983 parole date by up to seven extra years!

Anyway, there are too many variables to discuss right now but a lot is happening and if I can just get a half-way intelligent, fair-minded jury, I should get acquitted of the murder this time. And if that happens, I may get out of this hole before I get old and senile—smile!

Joe's situation is one of waiting again. We will know by the beginning of May if the Calif. Supreme Court is going to hear his appeal. They should—and I think they will—but who the hell knows! Then if they agree to hear his case, it will probably be a year before they make a decision; but again, they should overturn his conviction based on their decision on that illegal instruction.

The question is: will they back down because of the pressure they are getting from their political rivals? We all know how much "liberals" can be counted on in a tight situation—especially when they hate and fear us too and it's just a matter of "legal principle."

Anyways we are trying to be as optimistic as possible and I'm hoping that my getting acquitted will put pressure on them to give Joe another trial too. Joe is strong and is dealing with each day as it comes. Being a revolutionary with a life sentence and a pawn in the struggles of rival politicians is not a very encouraging situation.

How's that for understatement?!

I've got to end this—it's time for mail pick-up. Shit, I know you didn't expect all this anyway. Take care and keep on with your bad selves!

Freedom/Anarchy,
Russ Little
Folsom Prison
Tamal, Cal.

GOOD NEWS

We just heard the good news ourselves and had to let the rest of you know it. A few years ago a group of people got together and they, by themselves and together, decided to do something about a bad situation.

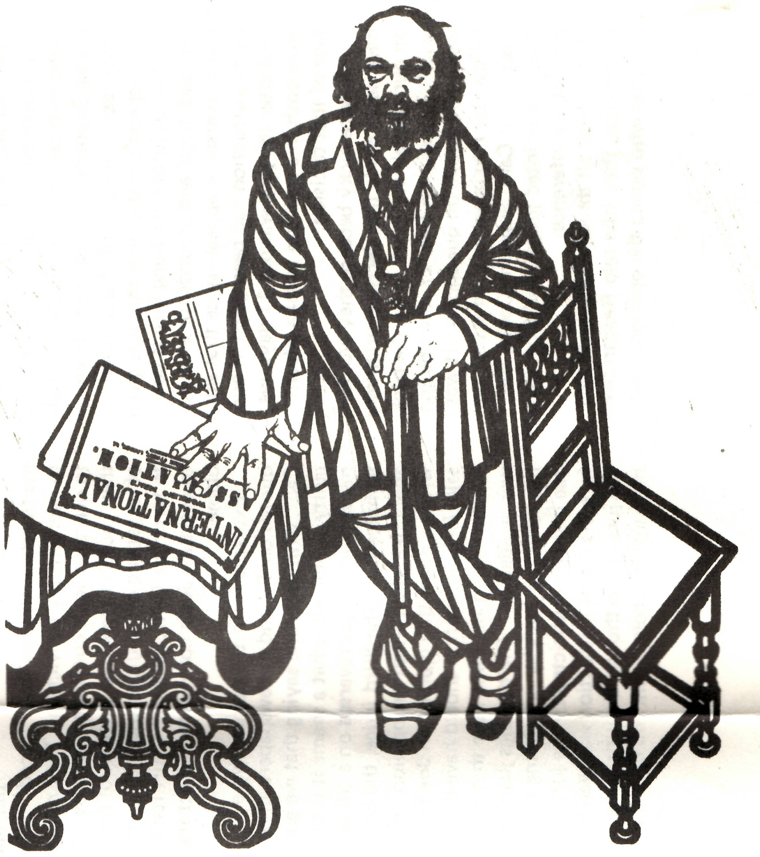
A lot has happened since then.

But these people have never stopped fighting. They did not accept that the war was over. So, from the confinement of their cells, they studied and learned. Real soldiers and true Revolutionaries, they continue to battle the Forces of Evil.

Congradulations and Good Luck, Brothers. Give 'em Hell.

- A.B.D.C. -

Bakunin On Marxism


INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

"Who are the Marxists, these partisans of so-called scientific socialism? They are the doctrinal revolutionaries.. who have assumed the mission of destroying the existing powers and orders to create their own dictatorship upon their ruins. They are enemies of the actual powers only because they wish to take them over; enemies of the actual political institutions only because the latter exclude the possibility of the former's dictatorship. They are nevertheless the most ardent friends of the State power, which they know must be maintained; without it the revolution, after having really liberated the people, would remove from this pseudo-revolutionary minority any hope of fastening them to a new harness and winning their favour with government messures."

BAKUNIN

Bakunin on the Marxist State:

"For the proletariat this will, in reality, be nothing but a barracks regime, where the standardized mass of men and women workers would wake, sleep, work and live to the beat of a drum; for the clever and educated a privilege of governing; and for the mercenary-minded, attracted by the immense international speculations of the State Bank, a vast field of lucrative jobbery." (Letter to Liberte. 1872)

"The leaders of the Communist Party, namely Mr. Marx and his followers, will proceed to liberate humanity in their own way. They will concentrate the reins of government in a strong hand. They will create a central state bank and control all commercial, industrial, agricultural, and even scientific production. The mass of people will be divided into two armies - industrial and agricultural - under the direct command of state engineers, who will constitute a new privileged and political class."

Statism & Anarchy 1873

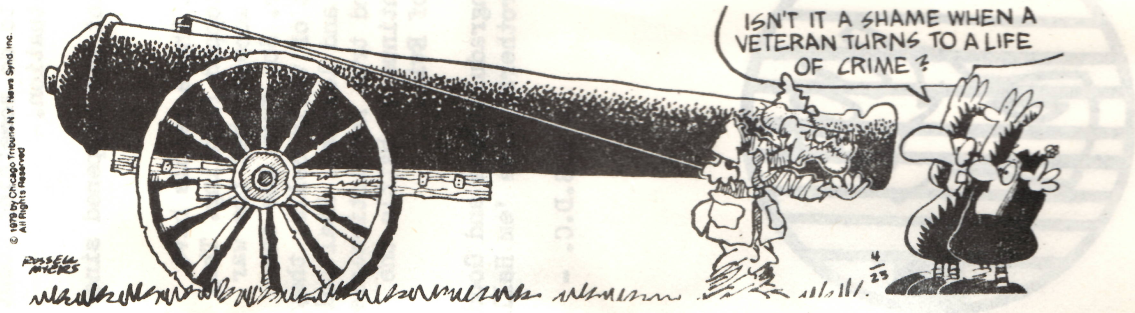
JOINT ACCOUNTS

I tell you, things are beginning to look up. This place used to have the reputation of being the toughest joint in the country, but lately it's been getting a bit looser. Even the guards are getting into the act. When the time comes for us to be locked up just prior to lunch the guard in the Control Room usually booms over the loudspeaker, "10:45 Lock up. Clear the yard. Clear the yard." Today he really got into the scheme of things - "10:45 Lock up. Get your butts up and to your cells." Really hip, man.

As you may have read elsewhere in this rag, Kincheloe (an alias if I've ever heard one), who is supposedly the Associate Superintendent of Custody (impressive, huh?), recently made a comment that he doesn't much care what our politics are. Rumor has it that that isn't all he doesn't much care about. An additional rumor (a rumor only, no evidence to back it up or deny it, only a rumor, do not pay attention to this, it means nothing, it is only a rumor, a rumor) going around is that he has some connections "higher up" that might be CIA. He is rumored (a rumor only...) to have replied, "Just because I am a Mormon and the Mormons have an 'in' with the Company, and just because I spent over 20 years in the military (reaching high rank, by the way), just because I am loved and cherished in this State's and the Nation's Capitols (or is that Capital?), is no reason to assume that I am connected with the CIA. If you wish to know any more, please contact Stansfield Turner."

But like I said, things are beginning to look up. There appears to be a war brewing and, as some of you may not know, there is a law on the books that says a prisoner can get his sentence commuted if he volunteers for military service. Since we are all good Patriotic Americans, we are all enlisting come the war. We are all looking forward to a bang of a time. It's true. Stick a gun in our hands, a few grenades in our pockets, maybe a missile or two, and just watch us fight for Freedom. The All Volunteer Army is alive and well, in prison. Besides, we got the experience. What's the enemy going to do - throw us in prison?

- Captain Killjoy -


ISN'T IT A SHAME WHEN A VETERAN TURNS TO A LIFE OF CRIME ?
RUSSELL MYERS
4/23

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IN CLOSING

"We are Anarchists. We are Individuals. We are ourselves before we are members of the Collective. In that point lies the strength of the Collective. We are a group of seperate people who have joined together to achieve and maintain a group 'I'.

"We strive to maintain our Individuality and Individualism while we work together. Once the 'I' has been submerged to the good of a Collective, this Collective will cease to be. It becomes, in effect, a collection."

This is the way we described ourselves in the fourth issue of the ANARCHIST BLACK DRAGON. From this point all sorts of interesting things develope.

The Collective, mostly located in the Washington State Penitentiary here in Walla Walla, Washington, came into existence out of a split with the authoritarian core of the Walla Walla Brothers in 1977. Many of the ABDC's members were in the struggle that took place in Segregation during the long hard pull in 1976 and came out after victory over the oppressive Administration to help form the Prisoners Justice Committee and Men Against Sexism (M.A.S.). The former organisation fell due to internal differences and reformism, but M.A.S. is still with us to this day.

For a long time we were underground even from other prisoners. Then slowly, in the latter part of 1978 we began to come out-front until now we have mustered the strength to stand up in the face of the State and declare our existence openly.

We believe strongly in a decentralized structure because a fluid condition is easier to mold to the work and harder for the State or anyone else to destroy. In a decentralized organization a number of elements can be neutralized without the group being incapacitated to any great extent. There is no "head" that can be cut off.

Our priorities have been primarily study, education, instigation, and agitation. Our main organ, this publication before you now, is in its fifth issue and well received both inside and out. Since our beginning we have rejected authoritarian politics in all its forms and have sought to build a decentralized organization of human beings helping human beings against the common enemy. Sometimes we have had to struggle against right-wing prisoners over various matters. We have fought and will continue to fight the Prison Administration over Human Rights for prisoners and we do a lot of legal work for prisoners. In addition, we write to various bougeois, prison, and left-wing publications.

Self-reliance, self-discipline, and self-responsibility are what make us strong. With outside people we are attempting to build by mutual aid and friendship rather than business. We accept no support from authoritarians and give them none except for critical support or support against the common enemy when and where this help is needed.

Right now we are being investigated by the Administration. Representatives of the ABDC have offered to speak with the Administration or any other State Official during the investigation, but so far our offer has been rejected. There is no telling what form this investigation will take or what the immediate or long-range results will be. Outside support is needed. Send what you can - stamps, writing materials, etc

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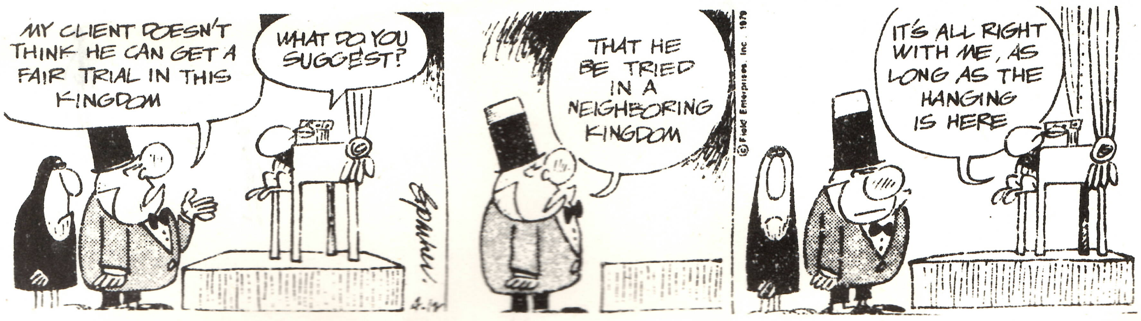
MY CLIENT DOESN'T THINK HE CAN GET A FAIR TRIAL IN THIS KINGDOM
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
THAT HE BE TRIED IN A NEIGHBORING KINGDOM
IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME, AS LONG AS THE HANGING IS HERE
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4-14

Copies of the latest issues of the ANARCHIST BLACK DRAGON are also available from the above address. Any comments, criticisms, and/or communiques can be sent there or to John H. Bosch, 253269, at:

P.O. Box 520
Walla Walla, WA., 99362

NEITHER GOD NOR MASTER

- A.B.D.C. -

Special thanks to some friends in Canada, the Solidarity Committee, for the fine cover they put on their printing of one of our past issues. We like it so much we are planning to continue using it. Splab-do!

Hello's and other greetings to Brothers and Sisters out there who are too numerous to mention by name.

Anybody out there have a spare Black Flag?